

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture Minutes
April 12 & 13, 2004
Wyoming Department of Agriculture Conference Room
Cheyenne, WY

Members Present: Alan Todd, President
Helen Jones, Vice President
Arlene Brown
Reed Gardner
Spencer Ellis
Lee Otto
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

Members Absent: Meghan Lally
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

Youth Leadership Advisory: Ryan Ells
Emily Horton
Leif Udem
David Largent

WDA Staff Present: Jim Schwartz, Deputy Director
Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Kimra Griffith

The meeting was called to order by President Brown at 1:10 p.m. on April 12, 2004. President Brown asked each of the Youth Leadership Advisory Committee to introduce themselves. The Board congratulated and welcomed each of them.

Nomination of New Board President

President Brown opened nominations for President of the Board. Helen Jones nominated Alan Todd. There being no further nominations, President Brown called for nominations to cease. A call for vote of Alan Todd as President resulted in all voting in favor. The gavel was handed to President Todd by past President Brown.

Approval of Minutes

Gardner moved to approve the February 11, 2004 minutes. Seconded by Jones. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Review of Legislative Session

John Etchepare talked to the Board about the following outcomes of the session: a new mediation position was approved ; the Emergency Insect Management Grant Funding; Wildlife Compensation passed but was vetoed by the Governor; and the appointment of the Governor's Brucellosis coordination Team and the funding for them. Gardner asked what the status was of the wolf in Wyoming and Ryan indicated the Governor's office will be going forward with litigation.

Wyoming Business Council Update

Tucker Fagan thanked the Department of Agriculture and especially John Etchepare for the efforts in the passage of the Wyoming Rural Development Council funding and the Main Street Program. He introduced Cindy Garretson-Weibel as the new Agribusiness Division Director. He said the trade shows are very important to all aspects of marketing Wyoming. Cindy talked about the goals and programs the Agribusiness Division is responsible for and the relationship the Department and the Agribusiness Division has. The Board asked Tucker for reports on the USDA grants from two years ago. Tucker said the report has been published and will have Cindy get copies to the members.

Brucellosis Update

Jim Logan gave an update on Brucellosis. When an animal gets the disease, it will not go away and humans can get it. As a matter of fact, Dr. Logan has it. The disease causes ungulates to abort their calves. The outbreak started well before Thanksgiving. A coordinated effort was underway to see where they originated and it was found from the Jensen herd. Since then, one more tested positive which was also traced back to the same herd. The herd was then quarantined and all contact herd were placed under "no movement". Contact herds were all tested and there were no positives, but four were suspect because of elevated levels. All contact herd are under quarantine and will be tested post-calving. Assuming all tests are negative, they will lift the quarantine. In a 2-year period you can have one positive test, but more than that, you lose your Class A status. The producer chose to depopulate his herd and was compensated by USDA. The second positive test was discovered in January which resulted in Wyoming's loss of Class A status. The Wyoming Livestock Board promulgated emergency rules and the new rules should be finalized soon. The legislature appropriated 1.4 million dollars to pay veterinarians for the testing but does not cover the analysis at the lab or other incidental expenses to producers. Emily Horton asked if there were any states that wouldn't accept our cattle. Dr. Logan indicated California, Colorado and Nebraska did have some problems and that he, John Etchepare and Jim Schwartz had visited with both Colorado and Nebraska to ease some of their concerns. Commuter herds are not being required by surrounding states to be tested. Prior to 1997 Strain 19 was used but since that time, RB 51 has been used. The herd infected had been vaccinated for twenty-five years.

NRCS Update

Ed Burton, State Conservationist updated the Board on the programs available through his office and stressed his commitment to work directly with producers on conservation planning. The new program he explained was the Conservation Security Program where the target market are the leaders in conservation. He said the purpose of this program is to reward those farmers and ranchers meeting the very highest standards of conservation and

environmental management on their operations. The CSP contract payments include one or more of the following components: annual base; annual existing practice maintenance; cost share on new practice(s); or enhancement. There are three contract tiers to this program and the annual payment limit and the term of the contracts vary from tier to tier. He then talked about the 2004 allocations comparing them to 2004. In some cases they have risen and others declined because of need and direction.

Doug Thompson

Doug talked to the Board about the Fremont County Commissioners and the issues facing that county and the producers they serve. He also visited some on the State Grazing Board. He is no longer the president. That would be Joel Bousman of Boulder.

April 13, 2004

Meeting was called to order by President Todd at 8:10 a.m.

Election of Vice President

President Todd opened nominations for Vice President of the Board. Spence Ellis nominated Helen Jones. The nomination was seconded by Brown. There being no further nominations, President Todd called for nominations to cease. A call for vote of Helen Jones as Vice President resulted in all voting in favor.

Legislature

The Board called Rae Lynn Job because she was unable to be at the meeting. She appreciated the time to speak of the most recent session. She said it was a successful session for agriculture. State Fair received 7.1 million for Capital Construction Projects. Deputy Director Schwartz asked her if there was anything we could do to be prepared in the future. She feels the attitude for State Fair is very positive, but nothing can be taken for granted. She gave a breakdown of the funding from the Appropriation Committee perspective. President Todd expressed his appreciation for the hard work the legislators do.

Ryan Ellis discussed an article in the morning paper regarding the round-up resistant grass. He said it is tough on the small producer. We are starting to see more conflicts with these types of products.

Jim Schwartz reviewed the interim committee studies. He highlighted some of them and the WDA position on them and the reasoning behind the need for the studies and outcomes.

Reed asked about the future funding of State Fair. Jim Schwartz talked about the success of the State Fair through this last budget session. He asked the Board to continue talking to legislators for additional funding.

John Etchepare wanted to let everyone know of a meeting at the department Wednesday to try and define the states' involvement and who should take the lead on animal ID and premiss ID. He feels premiss ID needs to be outlined soon so the individual states can issue premiss

ID. Nine states are going together to get some federal funding via a conference call to follow the WDA meeting. He also feels it should be tied to township, range and section since that system already exists with the counties.

Ag Industry Update

Jim Magagna expressed some concerns with the data and its privacy regarding animal ID. He feels it should be housed in the private sector. He also voiced concerns as to who would be paying for all of this and hoping the feds would pay some costs. APHIS has indicated the states should probably take the lead. The beef industry feels for now the radio frequency tag is the best way to go. Jim didn't know if the sheep industry would use their scrapie tag. He explained the new program the Stock Growers have unveiled and should be up and running the 15th of April. At the WSGA Convention on June 3 there will be a demonstration of this ID system.

Bryce Reece said the WWGA are working on the wolf issue. He said the market for lambs and wool is good right now and overall, he is optimistic for the sheep industry. The first quality grid for lambs is coming together through the cooperative.

Jim Magagna said they are giving a sigh of relief on the BSE outbreak. Japan and Korea are markets they are still working on and have recovered some of the exports to Mexico. One other "hot issue" is the reopening of the Canadian boarder.

The ag groups are tracking the GYIBC, the Governor's Brucellosis Coordination Committee and the interim legislative committee issues. They are hoping to influence the land use plans that are being developed. The WSGA wants to make sure the plans developed on state lands in Wyoming are for the best use possible. WSGA believes the ABDRL lab should be in Wyoming, as it's important to have a quality lab here.

Drew Brower with the Petroleum Association of Wyoming talked about the partnership formed between the petroleum industry and the agriculture community to work together for the betterment of the state. The surface use agreements are up to each individual to negotiate but they decided their job was to give the tools needed to be able to communicate and build relationships between landowners and gas producers.

Cale Case visited with the Board on the outcome of the session. He felt it was good to agriculture. He also feels term limits are going to be coming into plan. Even though the split estate issue died this time, he thinks it's going to be back next session. He feels that water development funding has come to an elevated level and thinks we need to ensure the funds are spent on good sound projects.

John said that Roy Reichenbach has been hired as the new Technical Services Manager for the department. Wyoming Rural Development Council will be hiring 2 ½ additional people, WDA is hiring a new policy position and one new mediation position. The WBC-Agribusiness Division will be moving out of the building. John then asked Jason Fearneyhough to visit with the Board on his position as a contract employee.

Issues

The wild horse issue is an on-going issue. John said that if there are four counters on the plane will set the standard to alleviate the possibility of a bad count. Adobe town will be gathered in the fall. The horse adoption process has some problems but Kathleen Clarke is now aware of them.

Once a month John meets with Bob Bennett of BLM and Terry Cleveland of Game and Fish. He feels this additional communication has helped the department.

On the endangered species, it looks like it won't be too long before the Prebles will be de-listed. The Sage Grouse is on-going. John feels the grouse is being used by BLM in the same way the Forest Service used the grizzly bear.

John also talked about the success of the Technical Review teams and said they will continue as needed with third-party participation and support.

Jim Magagna wanted everyone to be aware the WSGA will be meeting in June and will have a demonstration of their new animal ID program.

The Board decided to have their next meeting on June 4 to allow the Board to take in the WSGA Summer Convention. President Todd wants the fall meeting to be in Laramie October 28, 29, and 30 at the College of Agriculture to discuss animal ID. The regular meeting during State Fair will be the Friday of that week.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Todd, President

Date

Attachments:
Attendance Sheet